

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial Number: 10/591,379
Filing Date: July 2, 2007
Title: DISPLAY FOR GAMING DEVICE

Page 9
Dkt: 1842.040US1

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on June 9, 2008.

Claims 1, 4, 15 and 21 are amended. Claims 1- 46 are now pending in this application.

Interview Summary

Applicant thanks Examiner Thomas Cheriyan for the courtesy of a telephone interview on _____ with Applicant's representative Bradley A. Forrest.

[ATTORNEY: summarize interview with examiner.]

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hedrick et al. (U.S. Patent 6,575,541 B1) in view of Davids (U.S. 4,517,558 A) and Shafrir et al. (U.S. Patent 4,514,920 A). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 makes it clear that the shape of a pixels on an LCD are modified. None of the references, alone or combined teach or suggest such as structure.

Hedrick et al., describes translucent monitor masks with locking mechanism. The masks allow servicing of monitors. There is no teaching that the appearance or shape of pixels is modified. There is no teaching of any material between the pixels on the display and a viewer. The masks are frames of material, which may be of different colors. Thus, the mask of Hedrick et al., does not mask selected portions of the display to modify the appearance of pixels on the LCD display.

The Office Action cites Davids as disclosing changing the actual appearance of pixels on an LCD display in the abstract. Davids uses a light to dark film to modify the appearance of images to simulate a three dimensional reel on a display together with mask having some depth to it.

Shafrir et al., is cited for showing stencils on a mask placed over an LCD to provide a stencil effect. Conventional segmented transparent electrodes 32 provide the time indication in Shafrir et al., through a window 74. There is no stencil over the electrodes 32.

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Page 10
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A logo or other letters or symbols may be printed and selectively displayed by applying power to LCD. The LCD is clear or opaque, depending on the current, allowing the symbols to be viewed through the LCD when clear. Shafrir et al., does not modify the appearance or shape of pixels on the LCD. Rather, the opposite occurs. The LCD is used to determine whether or not the symbols that are printed, can be seen. It does not hint or suggest in any manner, whether or not combined with the teaching of the other references, the use of a mask as claimed to alter the shape of pixels on an LCD.

The Office Action points to Col. 2, lines 6-31 of Shafrir as teaching the use of a silk screen to be placed over an LCD to achieve a stencil effect. This interpretation of Shafrir et al., is believed not correct. As stated in Shafrir, within the cited section: "The symbol is selectively displayed and masked by selectively applying an electronic signal across the electrodes in a manner well known in the art. For example, when **the symbol is silk screened on a reflecting member disposed behind the liquid crystal display**, the symbol will be masked whenever an electric field is applied as this will block the transmission of light through the liquid crystal material in front of the symbol." Col. 2, lines 32-41, emphasis added. The symbol is behind the LCD, not in front of it. The LCD acts as the mask as stated in Shafrir et al., whereas in the claims, the mask is used to mask portions of the LCD.

Independent claims:

As indicated above, amended claim 1 makes it clear that the shape of a pixels on an LCD are modified. Claims 15 and 21 also modify the shape of pixels using a mask. None of the references, alone or combined teach or suggest such as structure.

Claims 8 and 12 pass selected portions of the pixels. Thus, the shape of such pixels is modified by the mask. None of the references, alone or combined teach or suggest such as structure.

Claims 30, 35 and 39 expressly modify the shape of pixels by smoothing edges using a mask. None of the references, alone or combined teach or suggest such as structure.

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SEP 05 2008

Page 11
Dkt: 1842.040US1CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' representative at (612) 373-6972 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date _____

By _____

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this _____ day of August, 2008.

Name _____

Signature _____